



To the Right Honorable the House of Peers, assembled in Parliament.

The humble Petition of the County of Southampton.

Most humbly sheweth,

Hat, according to Gods Word, whereof one tittle shall not fail, *A Kingdom, or House divided, cannot stand*: dissention and discord subvert and ruine the most potent Monarchs, and flourishing Estates in the world; but Peace and Religion are the works of absolute perfection, which being united, make a State unconquerable. To finish this work, is worthy your Honours most serious employment, which we conceive cannot be effected, whilst the popish Lords, who are manifest enemies to both, are admitted to vote amongst you, and therefore their consent cannot be expected. They are Papists, who have raised Rebellion in *Ireland*, and desire nothing more than the utter destruction of all that profess the Protestant Religion; and have most mercifully imbrued their hands in the blood of very many of them: and we are confident, That the Priests and Papists in this Kingdom are confederate with them, and would do the like execution here; and had prevailed in their frequent attempts, if God in his mercy had not prevented their devillish plots to our preservation.

Wherefore we earnestly pray (their malice being so apparently known) that the Popish Lords Votes may be taken away, and all Papists confined; for while they are at liberty, they will be ever contriving new mischiefs, to bring us to confusion. We further beseech you, That you will be pleased to joyn with the House of Commons, in advising and petitioning His sacred Majesty to reside neer his Parliament, And that care be speedily taken that the Prince may be neer *London*, and have Education answerable to his high Birth and State; That *Ireland* may be relieved, The Seas guarded with a strong Fleet, Our Castles and Forts prepared for defence against forraign or domestick enemies; The Priviledges of Parliament maintained, which are the chiefeſt and moſt reall Inheritance, purchased and left to us by the great care and proweſſe of our Anceſtors; which we, with the like zeal and affection, intend to preſerve to our posterity, moſt inviolable from all enforcements. And as we do acknowledge with all thankfulness your indefatigable labours, in composing the distracted estate of this Kingdom, of which we have lately had very good experience, especially in your Lordships Noble concurrence with the Honourable House of Commons in taking away the Votes of Bishops, and ſetling many other things of great concerne, So we ſhall faithfully, according to our Duty and Protestation, with our lives and Fortunes, defend his Royall Maſteſty, and your Honours, agreeing with the House of Commons, from all dangers, with our utmoſt power.

To the Honourable, the House of Commons now assembled in Parliament.

The humble Petition of the high Sheriffe, Knights, Esquires, and Gentlemen of the grand Inquest, Ministers, Freeholders and inhabitants of the Countie of Southampton, at the generall Assizes.

Humbly sheweth,

That your Petitioners doe with all humble thankfulness and admiration, acknowledge the unwearyed endeavours of this Honourable House, for the re-establishment of truth and peace amongst us, notwithstanding the malignant opposition of the popish and Prelaticall party, and are truely and thorowly ſensible of the bleſſings we enjoy in the ſuppreſſion of Arbitrary Government, Setling Triennial Parliaments, Disvoſting Bishops, with many other great things expreſſed in your Remonſtrance, which it hath pleaſed the Lord to eſſect for us, by your Noble means, whereof we rejoice.

That nevtheleſſe when we conſider the great and manifold dangers that yet threaten this Kingdom, by invasion from forraigne parts, and by our own diſviſions at home, cauſed by the Votes of Popiſh Lords in the Houſe of Peers, The continual praſtices of their adherents in the Country, And nakedneſſe for defence; The corruptions yet remaining in the Church, The deplorable condition of our dear bretheren in *Ireland*: particularly, when we reſiect upon our own County, conſiſting of neer 250 Parishes, whereof we fear there is not a fifth part furniſhed with conſcionable, conſtant Preaching Minifters: Unto which Spiritual calamity, we may adde the hazard we run in our Lives and Estates, through the decayes in our Caſtles and Forts, Our want of Armuſion, Weakneſſe of our Trained Bands, Multitudes of Papiſts, not only reſiding there, but reſorting hither from other places, the ruine of Trade, and particularly of Cloathing, for which the people of theſe parts have formerly derived their greatest ſubſiſtence.